Public Notice: PL-06-03

Public Notice

US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Seattle District

Planning Branch
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-2255
Nancy Gleason, Environmental Coordinator
Telephone: (206) 764-6577

Public Notice Date: April 28, 2006
Expiration Date: May 28, 2006
Reference: PL-06-03
Name: Seattle District, Corps of Engineers

30 Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, plans to perform work related to the Howard Hanson Dam Additional Water Supply project, King County, Washington. This work is subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and is described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within the Howard Hanson Dam Reservoir and City of Tacoma Watershed, Green River, upstream of the city of Auburn, King County, Washington. The project is located between river mile (RM) 59 and river mile 86.

WORK: As part of the overall project, the Corps is constructing 10 mitigation and restoration projects to compensate for the adverse environmental effects of the planned pool raise and for the continued operation of Howard A. Hanson Dam (HHD). The HHD Additional Water Supply fish and wildlife habitat projects are intended to mitigate for habitat lost to the increased elevation of the reservoir in 2006, or restore lost or damaged habitat due to the construction and continued operation of HHD since 1962. The conceptual mitigation and restoration projects were initially developed during the feasibility study (AWSP Feasibility Report/EIS) in 1998. The mitigation projects proposed for construction in 2006 partially offset habitat impacts caused by the Phase 1 water storage behind HHD. Mitigation is required for inundating 78.2 acres of riparian area and 11.5 acres of stream habitat.

The project area for work in 2006 involves ten separate aquatic habitat restoration and mitigation sites in the vicinity of Howard Hanson Dam, King County, Washington. The project is comprised of these primary elements: 1) excavation of side channels to increase spawning and rearing habitat, 2) installation of Engineered Log Jams and placement of Large Woody Debris, 3) a fish ladder for access to a pond for rearing habitat, and 4) breaching of existing sub-impoundments to prevent fish stranding during reservoir drawdown.

Construction Access: Site access routes typically follow old logging and maintenance roads. Construction activities for site access will include clearing, grubbing and salvage of large woody debris along the access route, and placement of road base materials and 4-inch to 6-inch quarry spalls along a 15-foot-wide road. Site reclamation will include removal of quarry spalls, hydroseeding, and planting with native riparian vegetation.

Staging Areas: Staging areas are located near existing roadways and site access routes. Staging areas will provide space for storing equipment and materials, act as equipment refueling areas, and one area will have helicopter wood loading. Construction activities for staging areas will include clearing, grubbing and salvage of large woody debris

along the access route, and placement of road base materials and 4-inch to 6-inch quarry spalls along a 15-foot-wide road. Site reclamation will include removal of quarry spalls, regrading the site to match natural drainage, hydroseeding, and planting with native riparian vegetation.

In-Water Construction Access: Access to individual habitat features will be gained by moving equipment and materials along dry gravel bars and riverbed areas, as well as crossing wetted areas of the river. River travel and access will use dry, unvegetated areas to the maximum extent possible, while minimizing travel and crossings in wet areas. Entrance and exit ramps from the river will use 18-inch quarry spalls and riprap to clear soils from equipment tires and tracks. The spalls will be removed, regrading, hydroseeding, and planting will be done upon completion of the project.

Engineered Log Jams: Three types of engineered log jams will be constructed for the project; bar-apex jams, meander jams, and barb jams. These jams emulate different jam structures that are naturally found in the river environment. Construction of these jams generally includes access to wetted areas of the river, transporting construction materials, and assembly and installation of the jams in the river. The approach for constructing these jams has been developed to minimize the adverse environmental effects.

Side Channel Excavations: Excavation of side channel deposits in floodplain areas will be performed. Side channel excavations will be above the summer-time low-water elevations and will not be directly connected to river flow paths. Excavated materials will be placed and spread along the floodplain and bank areas adjacent to the side channel areas. Stream flow will likely be present during the summer months. The inlet to the side channels will be excavated in a manner to leave a sediment plug between the stream and mainstem river until the final stages of the project when the inlet/outlet areas will be breached.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to mitigate for fish and wildlife habitat lost to the increased elevation of the reservoir in 2006, or restore lost or damaged habitat due to the construction and continued operation of HHD since 1962.

MITIGATION: No mitigation is required for this project as these projects are mitigation and restoration of aquatic habitat for Howard Hanson Dam construction, operation, and the increase in pool elevation for the Additional Water Supply Project. All impact avoidance and minimization measures applicable to in-water work of this nature have been applied to design of the project and will be adhered to during construction.

COORDINATION: The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State, or local agencies:

Federal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

Indian Tribes
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Local
King County
Tacoma Public Utilities

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES: The District Commander has reviewed the latest published version

of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. A field reconnaissance of the area did not identify any significant cultural or historic resources that would directly be affected by the proposed project. Unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric or historical data may be lost or destroyed by work to be accomplished under the requested work.

The District Commander invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES - The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identified federally listed and proposed animal species which may occur in the project vicinity. Included in this list were seven species listed as threatened or endangered, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), marbled murrelets (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), northern spotted owls *(Strix occidentalis caurina*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) identified one species listed as threatened: Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), as occurring downstream of the project area. The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received Biological Opinions and concurrence from both Services for endangered species. The Services find that these mitigation and restoration projects are not likely to adversely affect species except bull trout, and included Reasonable and Prudent Measures to minimize effects to bull trout. The Corps will follow the Reasonable and Prudent Measures contained within the Biological Opinions.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT – The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH for Pacific salmon occurs in the project area. The proposed action would impact less than 1 acre of EFH for these species. The Corps will observe in-water work windows as established by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Corps' will also comply with the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification issued by the Washington Department of Ecology. The project purpose is to restore habitat for Pacific salmon and will have an overall net benefit. The Corps has determined that the proposed action will not adversely affect designated EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters. No further EFH consultation is necessary.

PUBLIC HEARING - Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION - The decision whether to perform the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or not proceed with the proposed work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered

species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION - The State of Washington is reviewing this work for consistency with the approved Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

This proposal is the subject of Shorelines Management Act and will be conducted in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the approved State Coastal Zone Management Program.

A final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision have already been prepared for the proposed work as part of the Howard Hanson Dam Additional Water Supply Project. Based on the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed work, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Additional information concerning the project may be obtained at the above referenced address from Ms. Nancy Gleason, (206) 764-6577, or from Ms. Mamie Brouwer, (206) 764-3577. Comments on these factors will be accepted and made part of the record. Comments should refer to the reference number shown above and reach this office, Attn: Ms. Nancy Gleason, NWS-PM-PL-ER, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to insure consideration.

Encl
Drawings

Table 1. Habitat Mitigation and Restoration Sites for 2006

Project Name	**Project Type**	**In-water Work**	**Features**
Zone 1	Restoration	None	LWD placement on constructed gravel berm
Signani Slough	Restoration	Yes	Install fish ladder for pond access, excavate spawning channel
McDonald Creek	Mitigation	Yes	Excavation to eliminate waterfall barrier to allow fish passage
Railroad grade breach	Mitigation	None	Excavation to prevent fish stranding during reservoir drawdown
Koss site	Restoration	Yes	Excavation of a side channel for fish spawning and rearing
Smay Creek	Restoration	Yes	Log jam construction and LWD placement
Mainstem	Mitigation	Yes	Helicopter placement of LWD to increase habitat complexity
Champion Creek	Mitigation	Yes	Excavation of groundwater channels and LWD placement along lower Champion Creek
Sunday Creek	Mitigation	Yes	Log jam construction and LWD placement
Wildlife 30	Mitigation	None	Excavation to prevent fish stranding during pool drawdown

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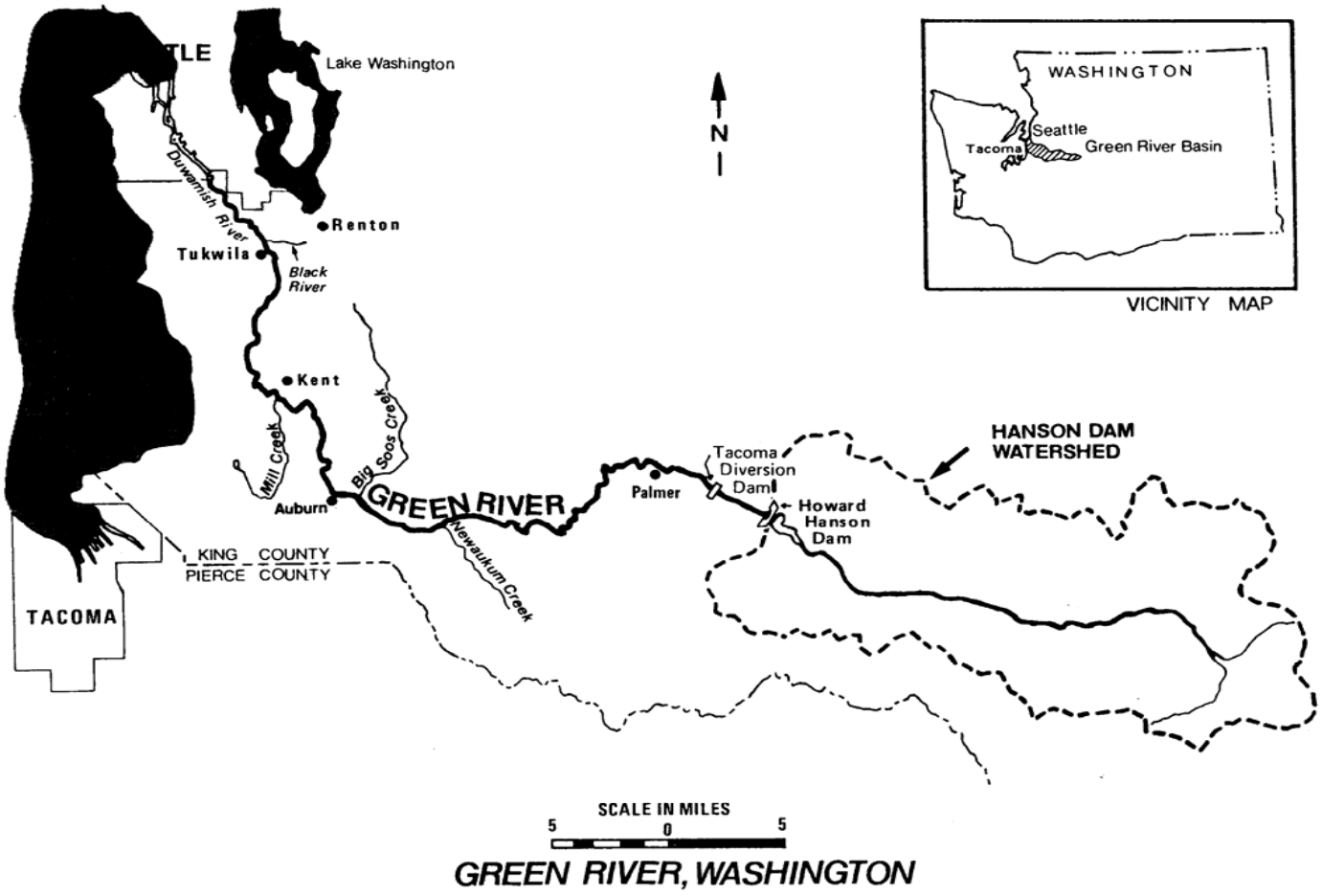

Figure 1. Location and Vicinity Map of the Howard Hanson Dam, Green River, King County, Washington.

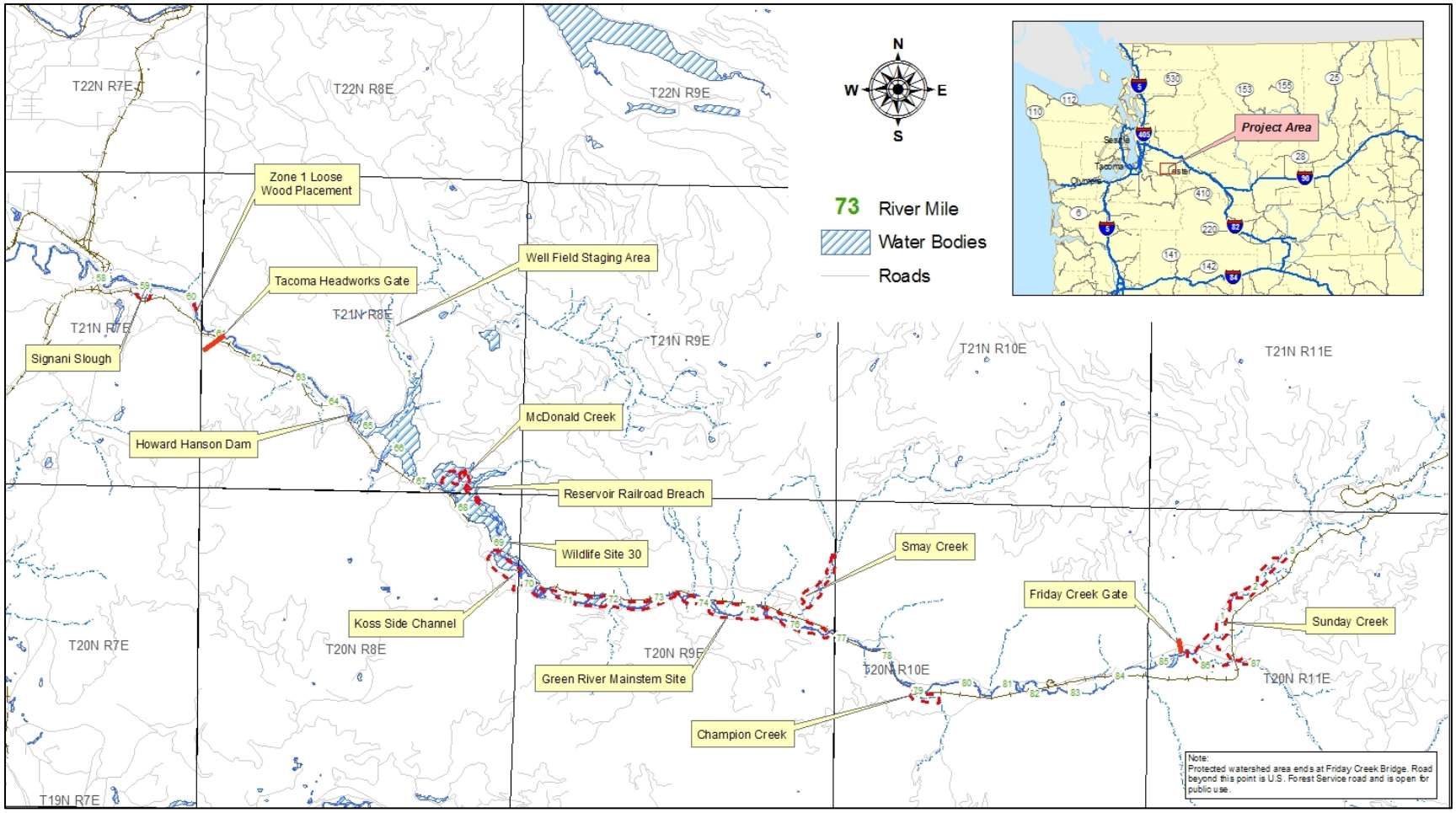

Figure 2. Map of 2006 Habitat Mitigation and Restoration Projects in the Vicinity of Howard Hanson Dam.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: April 28, 2006

Notice is herby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. PL-06-03 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is herby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600